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General and complete disarmament: reducing nuclear danger

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith information on the joint Kazakhstan-United States Omega-3 calibration experiment carried out on 29 July 2000 at the Semipalatinsk former test site.

I should be very grateful if you would have this information circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 74 (m) and 82 of the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Madina B. Jarbussynova
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

* A/55/150.



Annex to the letter dated 3 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 29 July 2000, 100 metric tons of granulated trytol exploded in tunnel 160 of the Degelen mountain massif at the Semipalatinsk former test site, resulting in the destruction of the last tunnel designed for conducting nuclear-weapon tests.

This was the third calibration experiment carried out at the test site and was part of a series of Kazakhstan-United States experiments.

In addition to destroying the tunnel, the experimental explosion was used to check and calibrate the international monitoring system for nuclear tests that is being established under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), to which the Republic of Kazakhstan is a party.

The data obtained through the experiment will enable the international community to detect and more accurately identify nuclear explosions (distinguish them from earthquakes and explosions of conventional explosives), and thereby effectively verify compliance with CTBT and create monitoring systems that would make it impossible to conduct nuclear tests anywhere in the world without the knowledge of the international community.

The Omega-3 experiment is particularly important also because it marks the successful completion of the joint Kazakhstan-United States five-year programme aimed at eliminating the nuclear-testing infrastructure: closing the tunnels and destroying the boreholes at the test site.
